



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE  
MARYLAND FIELD OFFICE  
50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY SUITE 202  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 11, 2008

Contact: Barbara Rater  
(410) 841-5740

## Excellent Yields Projected for the 2008 Small Grain Crop

Harvest of small grains is underway in Maryland and Delaware and farmers are reporting excellent yields. According to a survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service the week of July 1, producers are harvesting a wheat crop which is now projected to be the largest on record in these states. Producers are also expecting an outstanding barley crop.

**Maryland:** Farmers are expected to set a record high yield for wheat in 2008. Yield for wheat is now estimated at 74 bushels per acre, topping the record set in 1997 of 68 bushels per acre. If realized, this will be the largest wheat crop on record, at 15.9 million bushels. The previous record was set in 1995, when 14.4 million bushels of wheat were produced in Maryland. Maryland farmers are also expected to produce 3.87 million bushels of barley this year, up 36 percent from the 2.86 million bushels of barley produced in 2007. Average yield is projected at 86 bushels per acre, one bushel per acre short of the record high set in 2006. Despite the excellent yield, this crop will fall far short of the record crop produced in 1984, of 5.51 million bushels. The 1984 barley crop was harvested from 95,000 acres, more than twice the 45,000 acres that is expected to be harvested in 2008. According to the *Weekly Crop & Weather Report* for the week ending June 29, 39 percent of the wheat crop and 70 percent of the barley crop had been harvested at the time of the survey. Peach production is expected to total 4,300 tons, up 30 percent from last year. The increase in peach production is a direct result of increased precipitation which offset last year's drought. Potato yields are estimated at 290 cwt. per acre, down 30 cwt. from last year's crop.

**Delaware:** Delaware farmers are projecting a record yield for wheat this year. Yield for wheat is now estimated at 74 bushels per acre, up four bushels per acre from the June estimate. If realized, this will be one bushel per acre over the record average yield set in 1997 of 73 bushels per acre and this will result in the largest wheat crop on record in Delaware, of 5.77 million bushels. This compares with the previous record 5.46 million bushels of wheat produced in 1997, and with 3.74 million bushels of wheat produced in 2007. Growers will also harvest an estimated 1.72 million bushels of barley this year. Average yield for barley is expected to be 78 bushels per acre, the same as last year. The record yield for barley was set in 1997 at 89 bushels per acre. According to the *Weekly Crop & Weather Report* for the week ending June 29, 44 percent of the wheat crop and 88 percent of the barley crop had been harvested at the time of the survey. Potato yields are estimated at 250 cwt. per acre, down 20 cwt. from last year's crop.

**United States:** Winter wheat production is forecast at 1.86 billion bushels. This is up 3 percent from last month and 23 percent above 2007. The U.S. yield is forecast at 46.3 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from last month and 4.1 bushels from last year. The area expected to be harvested for grain totals 40.3 million acres, unchanged from the Acreage report released on June 30, 2008 but up 12 percent from last year.

**ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION 2007 AND 2008**

Commodity	Unit	Planted		Harvested		Average Yield		Production		
		2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	
Maryland										
		1,000 Acres						1,000		
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	540	480	----	----	----	----	----	----	
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	455	410	103	----	46,865	----	
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	75	----	12	----	900	----	
Soybeans <sup>1</sup>	BU	400	470	380	460	27	----	10,260	----	
Wheat, Winter	BU	220	255	170	215	68	74	11,560	15,910	
Barley <sup>1</sup>	BU	45	50	34	45	84	86	2,856	3,870	
Hay, All	TON	----	----	215	205	2.15	----	462	----	
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	40	45	2.80	----	112	----	
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	175	160	2.00	----	350	----	
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	33,000	----	
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	3.3	4.3	
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	3.0	2.7	3.0	2.7	320	290	960	783	
Delaware										
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	195	160	----	----	----	----	----	----	
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	185	152	97	----	17,945	----	
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	7	----	10	----	70	----	
Soybeans <sup>1</sup>	BU	150	185	145	182	24	----	3,480	----	
Wheat, Winter	BU	57	80	55	78	68	74	3,740	5,772	
Barley <sup>1</sup>	BU	21	25	19	22	78	78	1,482	1,716	
Hay, All	TON	----	----	15	15	1.93	----	29	----	
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	5	5	2.20	----	11	----	
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	10	10	1.8	----	18	----	
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.9	270	250	540	475	
United States										
									1,000,000	
Corn <sup>1</sup>	ACR	93,600	87,327	----	----	----	----	----	----	
Corn, Grain	BU	----	----	86,542	78,940	151	----	13,074	----	
Corn, Silage	TON	----	----	6,071	----	18	----	106	----	
Soybeans <sup>1</sup>	BU	63,631	74,533	62,820	72,121	41	----	2,585	----	
Wheat, Winter	BU	44,987	46,605	35,952	40,252	42	46	1,516	1,864	
Barley <sup>1</sup>	BU	4,020	4,130	3,508	3,640	60	60	212	218	
All Hay	TON	----	----	61,625	60,439	2.44	----	150	----	
Hay, Alfalfa	TON	----	----	21,670	20,778	3.35	----	73	----	
Hay, Other	TON	----	----	39,955	39,661	1.95	----	78	----	
Apples	LBS	----	----	----	----	----	----	9,114	----	
Peaches	TON	----	----	----	----	----	----	1.13	1.10	
Potatoes, Summer	CWT	53.7	48.0	51.3	45.5	332	321	17.0	14.6	

<sup>1</sup> Acres planted for all purposes.